



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/723,353	11/27/2000	Arieh Meitav	AVX-113	5983

7590 07/15/2002

Charles R. Ducker, Jr.,
Dority & Manning, PA
P.O.Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602-1449

EXAMINER

MAPLES, JOHN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1745

6

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MF=4

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/723,353

Applicant(s)

MEITAV ET AL.

Examiner

John S. Maples

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 ~~is/are~~ are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 ~~is/are~~ are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: . |

Art Unit: 1745

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The description of the bi-polar assembly 200 as shown in Figure 2 is unclear. It is not known from the specification and drawings what constitutes this assembly. Page 13, line 19 through page 14, line 3 of the present specification describe the bi-polar assembly in conjunction with Figure 2. However, from this disclosure it is not known exactly what makes up this component.

For example, what is the thick black line on the right side of the assembly 200 as seen in Figure 2? This black line is situated between top and bottom frames 20 and actually extends horizontally outwardly past both the top frame 20 and the bottom frame 20. Also, what is the configuration of the electrode plate 28? Is this plate within an opening of top frame 20 as in Figure 1 or, as it appears in Figure 2, the electrode 28 appears to be a layer of material located on top of frame 28. Also, is there another electrode plate located within bottom frame 20 of assembly 200-Figure 2? Finally, what components makeup the bi-polar assembly 200 so that the same indeed includes positive and negative active materials on opposite sides of an electronically conductive plate? Such is the construction of a bi-polar plate.

Art Unit: 1745

The specification and drawings are incomplete as to what constitutes the bi-polar assembly 200. Applicant is cautioned against adding new matter to the specification and/or drawings in response to this rejection.

Finally, applicant has claimed "bi-polar current collectors" in each of the independent claims 1, 21 and 41. Are these components the same as the bi-polar assembly referenced in the present specification or is this referring to a different component? Clarification is required.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In each of independent claims 1 and 21, applicant has claimed "a plurality of bi-polar current collectors". It is unclear what is meant by this terminology. For example, it appears that Figures 2 and 3A of the present application require only one bi-polar assembly and not a plurality of such assemblies. The same is true for the storage device depicted in Figure 3B of the present application. Clarification is required.

5. In view of the above 35 USC 112, first and second paragraph rejections to the claims, it was not possible for the examiner to search the prior art because it is unclear exactly what constitutes applicant's invention.

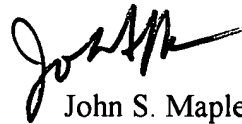
6. The application cited on page 10, lines 14-16 of the present application should be updated to show its serial number and filing date and its most recent status.

Art Unit: 1745

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John S. Maples whose telephone number is 703-308-1795. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 703-308-2383. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



John S. Maples
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1745

JSM
July 9, 2002